

16 OCT 1948

~~TOP SECRET~~

816

## EUROPE

1. BELGIUM: Communists may force Spaak resignation--US Ambassador Kirk in Brussels reports a growing belief "by qualified observers" that the Communists will be able to force the resignation of the Spaak Government either by abstaining from voting or by supporting the proposed plebiscite for the return of King Leopold. Kirk further reports that the Spaak Government will resign rather than permit passage of the proposed plebiscite legislation.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that, although the Communists may be able to force a government crisis, the threat of Spaak's resignation will probably prevent passage of the controversial legislation at this time.)

## THE AMERICAS

2. BOLIVIA: General strike predicted--[REDACTED] reports that the PIR (extreme rightist party) and MNR (extreme leftist party) will promote a series of disturbances within the next ten days and a general strike on 25 October affecting railroads, airlines, factories, and mines. If the strike takes place, the President is expected to declare a state of siege and to direct the army and police to take over the struck installations.

(CIA Comment: The weak Bolivian Government could quite possibly be overthrown by a combined PIR-MNR effort. PIR and MNR are unnatural allies, however, and it is unlikely that such a combination would form a firm basis for a new government. A government dominated by either party would be less friendly to US policies than the present regime.)

NO CHANGE in Class. ☐  
 X DECLASSIFIED  
 Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C  
 Auth: [REDACTED] 4 APR 77  
 Date: 16 MAR 1978 By: 026

~~TOP SECRET~~